

Year End Report-2015

Ed Brand-Russellville, AL



31 January, 2015

Dear brethren:

This is beginning to sound like a broken record: It hardly seems possible that 364 days have gone by so rapidly. In a few hours, 2015 will disappear to wherever used up time goes. We plan to spend time with family tonight and bring in the new year, that is if we can stay up that late. Teenagers will not understand this, but most older people will.

I resigned from working with the Tharptown church at the end of November, 2014. Pat and I decided that I would devote the next year to working abroad if we could locate sufficient monthly support for the coming year. I am happy to say that this came to fruition. We are appreciative of those brethren who support us on a regular basis. My monthly income for 2015 was \$4,950. In addition to this amount, I

receive a Social Security check and more than half of this amount goes into a retirement program. I am not sure what a retired preacher does, so at this point in time, I am still working.

A Recap of 2015

I made 5 trips abroad in 2015. Following is a brief summary of those journeys.

1. January 26-February 16. Jeff Archer joined my early Monday morning and we flew to Bandung, Indonesia. We stayed in the home of Robert Sanusi and worked with various Christians and non-Christians. After Jeff returned home, I flew to Myanmar and worked with Daniel Kaplian and the church in Tachilik. This was my first trip to Myanmar. I plan to return there and work with Daniel in the first quarter of next year, Lord willing. There were no baptisms during this trip.
2. May 4-May 26. I have been going to Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, annually since 2003. I always look forward to working with the church in this pleasant city. Before I got to CB, I spent a couple of days with Holger and Franz Kock in Basel, Switzerland. Holger works with the church there. From there, I took a train to Bratislava, Slovakia, where Pat and I lived from 1997-1999. I was able to meet with one of the Christians. Then, it was on to Martin, where the Peter Kandas live. I met with the church in Banska Bystrice Sunday morning. The next day, I took a fast train to Prague and met Dakin Kinser from Normal, IL. He and I worked together for the next week or so. We had studies with various Christians and I spoke at a lecture on Thursday evening. On this trip, I was able to spend a little time with Andrea and her 3 boys. Andrea lived with us for a year while we were in Bratislava.
3. June 21-July 17. I left after morning worship with the Helton Drive church and drove to Huntsville and boarded for Bali-via Sydney, Australia. After a day in Bali, I flew on to Singapore and worked there with various individuals the next 9 days. I taught the Sunday Bible class and preached at the Northwest congregation. On July 4, flew back to Bali and for the next two weeks, worked and studied with Pieter Joshua and Marlen Kambey. By the time I left on July 16, a small church was meeting in Bali. A few days later, Pieter's brother Marco was baptized.
4. Ken Chapman joined me to work in Sri Lanka. I carried a portable projector and money for Nagendran to purchase a lap top computer. The projector and funds were sent from brethren in Annandale, VA. We worked with Nagendran in Badulla from Thursday until Sunday afternoon. Then we hired a van to take us to Nuwara Eliya for our study with preachers and other interested men. We began studying Acts with them last year. This year, we had an even larger number of "outsiders" in our study. Some of them are Church of God "pastors" and one was a Catholic priest. We had good question/answer sessions during these studies. They

concluded on Thursday afternoon. Ken went down to Matara and worked with Eric and I returned to Badulla and worked with Nagendran, who was having some health difficulties.

Ken returned home on September 7 and I flew to Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. I worked with Samuel Andambike, who lives in Mbeya, the next 13 days. We went house to house, preached in market places, in church buildings, and went to several outlying regions. It was by far, the most difficult trip I have taken in many years. Tanzania is a very poor country, with few good roads. Our travels were by motorcycle, bus, taxi and foot. Even though the conditions were harsh from a soft American's viewpoint, the people were most receptive to our efforts. Few refused to study with us. Three wanted baptism, but

because it is the dry season, not enough water could be found to accomplish the baptisms. Samuel appears to be a hard worker and an efficient co-worker.

5. November 16-December 14. I left on Monday and flew to Honolulu. I had planned to stay overnight there and went to the small hotel. My flight for Manila would leave Tuesday afternoon. When I went to the airport to check in, I learned that the Manila airport was closed to all traffic because of the Asian Pacific Economic Conference. The agent did not know how long the airport would be closed so I wound up returning home. I left the next Saturday and was able to arrive safely in Manila around 9:30 Sunday evening. I was met at the airport by several brethren and we went to the hotel to rest up. The next 3 weeks were spent constantly moving from place to place and preaching and teaching each day. I spoke on the radio once and answered questions which were texted to the radio hosts. During this time, I went to Bali for a couple of days to study with Marlen's sister, Ria. At the end of our studies, she was baptized by Pieter. She lives the island of Java and the closes church is about 2 hours away by car. Her husband in a Buddhist. Her parents and siblings live close by and we are hoping studies can be started with them. I returned to Manila and spoke twice on Sunday and left for home that evening. The final results of this trip are 43 baptized: 42 in the Philippines and 1 in Bali.

A number of churches and brethren made these trips possible. I am grateful especially to the Helton Drive church who committed \$12,000 for 2015 for travel expenses. Others provide substantial amounts. Individual brethren also provided funds, both for travel, benevolence and other expenses. Some of the young girls at Helton Drive gave me money they set aside for me to use as I saw fit. What a wonderful reflection on these girls and their parents.

If the Lord wills, I will devote the next year to making about the same number of trips abroad. I have received more invitations than I can accommodate, so choices will have to be made where I will be able to go. Africa seem to hold much promise, as well as the Philippines. If my health allows, I plan to work again with Samuel in Tanzania, and perhaps some other countries on that continent.

Thank you so much for your continued support and your prayers for me and for Pat. She is the invisible partner who makes these trips possible.

Your brother in the Lord,

Ed Brand